

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 IO-11 OMB-01

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 EB-07 AID-05 /094 W

----- 003051

O 101025Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8553

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1288

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. A RELATIVELY QUIET DAY YESTERDAY ON THE GROUND, WITH ISOLATED INCIDENTS CONTINUING BUT NO MAJOR EXCHANGES OF FIRE. VARIOUS MILITIAS, PARTIES AND FACTIONS CONTINUE FOR THE MOST PART TO CONTROL THEIR OWN TERRITORY, HOWEVER, AND NORMALIZATION OF SECURITY ALONG TRADITIONAL LINES IS PROCEEDING VERY SLOWLY.

2. PRESS SPECULATION CONTINUES ON POSSIBILITY OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY FRANGIE AS EARLY AS TOMORROW'S CABINET MEETING OF POINTS IN A BASIC POLITICAL AGREEMENT. HOWEVER BETTER POLITICAL INFORMATION (FOR EXAMPLE FROM DIRECTOR

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GENERAL OF PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S OFFICE TO EMBOFF)

INDICATES ACCORD NEEDS CONSIDERABLE MORE MESSAGE WITH BOTH CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM LEADERS. FRANGIE SPENT SEVERAL HOURS YESTERDAY WITH CHAMOUN AND MARONITE EXTREMIST FATHER KASSIS. THESE MEN ARE GOING TO PRESENT ARGUMENTS TO A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE KASLIK GROUP TODAY. ON OTHER HAND, SAEB SALAM CONTINUES PUBLIC OBJECTIONS TO ASPECTS OF THE AGREEMENT, SUCH AS ANY WRITTEN GUARANTEE THAT PRESIDENT WILL BE A MARONITE. THERE IS MUCH POLITICAL COMING AND GOING.

3. MINISTER TUEINI AND OTHERS ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO LAY DOWN PRIORITIES IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. IDEA IS TO CLEAN UP DESTROYED AREAS SUCH AS DAMOUR AND THEN PROCEED TO THEIR RECONSTRUCTION. UN ECWA HAS PUBLICLY INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER OF ITS READINESS TO HELP COORDINATE RECONSTRUCTION. PRESS HAS REPORT OF SYRIAN PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT LEBANESE-SYRIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL TO ASSIST, A MOVE WHICH MIGHT CAUSE SOME RESENTMENT IN LEBANESE TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC CIRCLES BUT WHICH MIGHT ALSO PUT PRESSURE ON GOL TO DO MORE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. MEANWHILE CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR ELIAS SARKIS HAS REEMPHASIZED TO ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE AS OPPOSED TO WORRYING ABOUT SPECIFIC MATERIAL LOSSES OF RECENT PAST. THIS SEEMS EMINENTLY LOGICAL TO US IN A PLACE SUCH AS LEBANON WHERE FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES ARE RELATIVELY PLENTIFUL BUT IN PRIVATE HANDS.  
LAMBRAKIS

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## Message Attributes

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